

# Sunderland

## Office of Fisheries Assistance

### Fact Sheet

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#### Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D)  
Senator John F. Kerry (D)  
Rep. John W. Olver (D-1st)

#### Contact

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#### Purpose

The Sunderland Office of Fisheries Assistance was established to restore anadromous fish to the Connecticut River basin through fisheries management studies, evaluation and technical assistance to state and federal program cooperators.

#### Management Activities

- Stock Atlantic salmon fry in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.
- Monitor Atlantic salmon adult returns and juvenile growth and survival.
- Conduct fisheries contaminant surveys.
- Restore American shad by transferring adults from lower to upper basin historical habitat.
- Assist the state of Connecticut with a striped bass population assessment in the mainstem Connecticut River.

- Restore blueback herring by transferring fish to the Westfield and Ashuelot rivers in cooperation with the states of Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

#### Highlights

Successful reintroduction of the once-extirpated Atlantic salmon through cooperative efforts

Salmon access to nursery habitat and spawning grounds increased through fishway construction with spawning documented in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont

Restoration of American shad to its historic range in the mainstem Connecticut River

#### Issues

Declining numbers of blueback herring threaten to disrupt the ecological balance of the river. Inadequate staff at the state and federal levels preclude scientific investigations. Actions have been taken to improve habitat through fishway construction and to restore populations through adult transfers to quality habitat.



Inadequate funding and staffing limit the cooperative capability to restore anadromous fish to the Connecticut River.

Funding for the Connecticut River basin Atlantic salmon compact (CRASC) is needed to ensure inter-state, multi-agency focus on salmon and its environment.

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